

Message Text

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SUBJECT:SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION VISIT TO U.S.

REF: STATE 118715

1. SUMMARY SOVIET VETERANS DELEGATION HAD VERY SATISFACTORY STAY IN U.S. JUNE 6-15 WHICH INCLUDED PROTOCOL FUNCTIONS IN WASHINGTON AND PROGRAMMING BY LOCAL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS IN FLORIDA, OHIO, AND MISSOURI. IN ADDITION TO SIGHTSEEING AND SOCIAL EVENTS, TRIP INCLUDED VISIT TO NORTHWESTERN MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY WHICH AFFORDED GLIMPSE OF STATE SUPPORTED HIGHER EDUCATION AND RURAL AMERICAN LIFE TOO OFTEN MISSED BY SOVIET VISITORS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE DELEGATION LAID WREATH ON TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN S, RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, AND WAS HOSTED BY WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS OF THE THREE U.S. VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PROGRAM (LEGION, VFW, AND DAV).

3. IN FLORIDA DELEGATION VISITED KENNEDY SPACE CENTER AND MET WITH U.S. VETS AT LOCAL VFW POST, FOR EVENING OF PIANO

PLAYING, DANCING, AND INFORMAL SOCIALIZING.

4. IN OHIO SOVDEL VISITED DAV HEADQUARTERS, WRIGHT PATTERSON AF BASE MUSEUM, AND WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT HOUSE BOAT PARTY ON THE MISSISSIPPI. MEDIA COVERAGE INCLUDED 2 TV INTERVIEWS AND LOCAL PRESS STORIES.

5. IN MISSOURI SOVDEL STAYED WITH LOCAL LEGIONAIRES IN NORTHWESTERN MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY DORMITORIES, WHERE THEIR HOST WAS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ROBERT FOSTER, MEMBER OF RECENT U.S. VETERANS DELEGATION TO U.S.S.R. SOVDEL REPORTEDLY VERY IMPRESSED BY UNIVERSITY FACILITIES. THEY OBSERVED BASKETBALL CLINIC, ATTENDED STUDENT BAND REHEARSAL, MET WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS, AND OBSERVED STUDENT LIFE. THEY ALSO ATTENDED CATTLE AUCTION, WERE SHOWN LIVESTOCK RAISING TECHNIQUES, AND MET LOCAL MARYVILLE COMMUNITY LEADERS. AT INITIATIVE OF SOVDEL MEMBER TEMOSYAN, FOSTER AND TEMOSYAN, ACTING AS PRIVATE CITIZENS, SIGNED JOINT PEACE STATEMENT. DEPT OBTAINING STATEMENT AND WILL POUCH COPY TO EMBASSY. FYI-DEPARTMENT ESCORT-INTERPRETER REPORTS OTHER SOVDEL MEMBERS DEFERRED TO TEMOSYAN ON ALL PROTOCOL QUESTIONS AND REACTED TO HIM AS DE FACTO LEADER OF SOVDEL. END FYI. LOCAL PRESS STORIES PRECEDED SOVDEL'S ARRIVAL, AND THERE WAS GOOD PRESS AND TV COVERAGE DURING MARYVILLE STAY. THIS COMBINATION OF STATE UNIVERSITY AND MIDDLE-AMERICAN RURAL LIVING AFFORDED A GLIMPSE OF LIFE IN THE U.S. TOO OFTEN MISSED BY SOVIET VISITORS.

6. SOVIET EMBASSY WAS VERY ATTENTIVE TO DELEGATION AND AMBASSADOR ORGANIZED LUNCHEON FOR DELEGATION ON FINAL DAY IN U.S. ON BALANCE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL AND MORE THAN ADEQUATELY RECIPROCATES FOR SOVIET HOSPITALITY SHOWN USDEL IN SOVIET UNION. INGERSOLL

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